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Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EA/P:STAFF:PP
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---------- 028931
R 042208Z SEP 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON
INFO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
TREASURY
USSAGE NKP
COGARD
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMCONSUL CAN THO
AMCONSUL DANANG
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG
USDEL JEC PARIS
CINCPAC HONOLULU
XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA
AMEMBASSY RANGOON

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COGARD FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, XC, US
SUBJECT: SEPTEMBER 4 EA PRESS SUMMARY

INDOCHINA

1. DIPLOMATIC SOURCES SAY SVN MOVES NAVAL TASK FORCE INTO GULF OF THAILAND, THREATENS IN NOTE TO GKR EMBASSY IN SAIGON TO SEIZE US-FRENCH OIL RIG IF IT IS NOT MOVED FROM DISPUTED WATERS 65 MILES SW OF REAM IN
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TEN DAYS. OIL INDUSTRY SOURCES IS SAIGON AND SINGAPORE

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SAYS RIG I US-OWNED, UNDER LEASE TO CONSORTIUM OWNED 65-PERCENT BY FRENCH STATE OIL COMPANY AND 35-PERCENT BY EXXON. MOST SVN SHIPS IN AREA ARE BIGGER THAN "TINY" KHMER SHIPS (UPI, CHITRIB).

2. MIL COMMAND SAYS DUG-IN COMMUNIST TROOPS THROW BACK THREE GVN ASSAULTS ON VILLAGE 22 MILES NORTH OF SAIGON (UPI, CHITRIB). SAIGON COMMAND REPORTS VC FIRE DOWNED MEDEVAC HELICOPTER 15 MILES WEST OF DA NANG (AP, CHITRIB).

3. NYT'S SHIPLER FROM SAIGON QUOTES INTELLIGENCE REPORTS, DENIED BY ACTING CHIEF OF NVN FPJMC DEL, THAT GIAP IS GRAVELY ILL WITH CANCER. OBSERVERS NOTE THAT RECENT PUBLIC APPEARANCE BY GIAP WAS ONLY FOURTH IN TWO YEARS, COMPARED TO PREVIOUS ALMOST-WEEKLY APPEARANCES, AND

THAT GIAP WAS SEEN BY WESTERN DIPLOMATS IN CANCER WARD OF MOSCOW HOSPITAL LAST DECEMBER. SHIPLER SAYS SVN OFFICIALS ARE NOT YET COUNTING HIM OUT AS MAJOR VOICE IN NVN POLICY, QUOTES SKETCHY INTELLIGENCE REPORTS THAT GIAP BLAMED - "THOUGH GENTLY" - FOR FAILURE TO SCORE DECISIVE VICTORIES IN 1968 AND 1972 OFFENSIVES. SEES HANOI PREPARING FOR GIAP'S DEPARTURE WITH PROMOTION OF VAN TIEN DUNG, NOTES THAT SIX OF TOP TEN GENERALS UNDER GIAP REPORTEDLY PROMOTED IN PAST EIGHT MONTHS. SAYS POLICY IMPLICATIONS UNCLEAR AND MAJOR QUESTION IS WHETHER NVN WILL LAUNCH ALL-OUT OFFENSIVE IN SOUTH, WHICH IS LIKELY TO BE PRODUCT OF BROAD-BASED DECISION. SOME EXPERTS BELIEVE NVN MIL ESTABLISHMENT HAS BEEN DEBATING THE QUESTION AND GIAP, ACCORDING TO US ANALYST, ACTS AS MEDIATOR.

4. WP'S GETLER SAYS DOD WILL PROBABLY HALT DELIVERY OF NEW F-5ES IN WAKE OF SHARP CONGRESSIONAL CUTS IN MIL AID TO SVN. SAYS PENTAGON UNDERTOOK "INTENSIVE REVIEW" OF GVN MIL PRIORITIES AND CONCLUDED THAT NEW JETS ARE "FAR FROM TOP" OF IMMEDIATE NEEDS. COMMENTS THAT GVN HAS HANDS FULL TRYING TO MAINTAIN EXISTING AIR FLEET; QUOTES SENIOR OFFICIALS THAT UNCLASSIFIED

FUNDS MUST BE USED PRIMARILY FOR ARTILLERY AMMO, FUEL AND SPARE PARTS TO COPE WITH EXPANDED FIGHTING LEVEL. SAYS PENTAGON ALSO REVIEWING OTHER ITEMS CHARGED TO SVN MIL AID, SUCH AS 35 MILLION DOL COST OF USDAO, TO DETERMINE IF OTHER PARTS OF US BUDGET SHOULD MORE PROPERLY BE CHARGED. GETLER OPINES THAT SUCH A REVIEW IS EXTREMELY SENSITIVE SINCE IT COULD SUGGEST TO CONGRESS THAT DOD IS

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SEEKING TO GET AROUND CUTS BY REARRANGING BOOKKEEPING.
DOD OFFICIALS STRESS THAT REASSESSMENTS WOULD BE
FULLY DISCUSSED WITH CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.
ANOTHER POTENTIAL REVIEW AREA IS WHETHER GVN SHOULD
BE CHARGED ORIGINAL COST OF EQUIPMENT OR THE COST
OF THE REPLACEMENT ITEM. ISSUE IS SENSITIVE BECAUSE
DOD IS HELPED TO MODERNIZE ARSENALS WHEN OLDER
EQUIPMENT IS SHIPPED.

GETLER QUOTES MIL SOURCES THAT CUTBACKS ARE EXPECTED
TO LIMIT F-5E DELIVERY TO 45 RATHER THAN ORIGINALLY
PLANNED 126. AMEMBASSY SAIGON OFFICIALS, ESPECIALLY
FORMER MIL ATTACHE GEN. MURRAY, HAVE BEEN SHARPLY
CRITICAL OF CONGRESSIONAL CUTS, PREDICT GRAVE
CONSEQUENCES FOR GVN FORCES AND INCREASED CASUALTIES
BECAUSE OF REPORTED AMMO SHORTAGE. MURRAY, WHO
RETIRED RECENTLY, WAS CRITICAL OF HOW DOD DECIDED

ON ITEMS IN AID PROGRAM BUT NOW SAYS IT IS GETTING
KIND OF REVIEW NEEDED TO INSURE PROPER PRIORITIES.
HE ALSO BELIEVES HIS PUBLIC "OUTSPOKESNNESS" ON AID
CUTS HAS HELPED STIR PEOPLE UP AND MAKE THEM
REALIZE THAT SOUTH VIETS "ARE IN TROUBLE."

5. SOUTHERLAND (CSM) IN SAIGON SAYS THAT ARVN HAS PAID
PRICE FOR LAND-GRABBING IN NORTHERN PART OF COUNTRY
WITH COMMUNIST RETALIATION IN RECENT WEEKS RESULTING
IN HEAVIEST FIGHTING SINCE C-F. NOTES THAT NVN HAS
REGAINED GOOD PART OF AREA LOST SINCE C-F AND
CASUALTIES HAVE BEEN HIGH. QUOTES VETERAN ANALYSTS
THAT COMMUNIST AIMS FOR MOMENT APPEAR LIMITED; KNOCK-
OUT BLOWS NOT INTENDED, AND HANOI IS "FAR FROM
RELEASING" FULL FORCE OF ITS WAR MACHINE. SAYS
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ONE SAIGON ANALYST SEES ATTEMPT TO ROLL BACK
"PACIFICATION", AND ALSO TO MAKE GVN MORE REASONABLE
FROM COMMUNIST POINT OF VIEW. SOME ANALYSTS THINK
CURRENT ATTACKS MAY BE PRELUDE TO SOME SORT OF NEW
COMMUNIST POLITICAL INITIATIVE COMING PERHAPS AS
EARLY AS BEGINNING OF NEXT YEAR.

SOUTHERLAND SEES IMPROVED COMMUNIST MOBILITY DEMONSTRATED
IN RECENT FIGHTING, THANKS TO NEW ROADS. QUOTES
INTELLIGENCE EXPERTS' AGREEMENT THAT NVN HAS ENOUGH
MATERIAL STOCKPILED IN SVN TO LAUNCH GENERAL OFFENSIVE
LASTING MANY MONTHS. SAYS THIEU'S PREDICTIONS OF
MAJOR NVN OFFENSIVE SEEN BY "MANY" OBSERVERS AS PUBLIC-
RELATIONS EFFORT TO SECURE CONTINUING US SUPPORT,
POSSIBLY TO HELP MAINTAIN ARMY DISCIPLINE, AND TO

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PROVIDE PRETEXT FOR GVN REFUSAL TO AGREE TO CERTAIN POLITICAL PROVISIONS OF C-F. LISTS REASONS FOR BELIEVING THAT MAJOR OFFENSIVE FAR FROM IMMINENT: CONSCRIPTION AND MIL TRAINING IN NVN CURRENTLY AT LOW RATES; INFILTRATION INTO SOUTH IS LOW AND SUPPLIES NOT DISTRIBUTED IN MANNER THAT SIGNALS OFFENSIVE; NVN STRATEGIC FORCES HAVE NOT SHIFTED "POSTURE" IN WAY THAT WOULD POINT TO OFFENSIVE; AND THERE ARE NUMEROUS INDICATIONS THAT NVN TOP PRIORITY IS SOLVING ECON PROBLEMS. QUOTES SOME ANALYSTS THAT SOVIETS AND CHINA MAY HAVE CUT DELIVERIES OF MIL SUPPLIES, AND THAT NVN MAY NOT BE ABLE TO COUNT ON THEM TO REPLACE LOSSES IN MAJOR OFFENSIVE. SAYS IF ANALYSTS CORRECT, NVN STANDS TO GAIN MORE BY STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH TO GETTING CONTROL IN SOUTH THAN FROM ALL-OUT OFFENSIVE.

6. NYT CARRIES HUMAN-INTEREST STORY FROM SAIGON OF THREE-YEAR OLD GIRL SENT TO US FOR SURGERY TO CORRECT

HEART DEFECT. VICTOR SRINIVASAN, WHO RUNS TWO HOMES FOR ABANDONED CHILDREN IN SAIGON UNDER AUSPICES OF VIETNAMESE-AMERICAN CHILDREN'S FUND OF HOUSTON, LOCATED CHILD, GOT COMMITMENT FROM DR. DENTON COOLEY TO OPERATE, PROVIDED FUNDS FOR TRIP AND FOUGHT WAY THROUGH APPROVALS REQUIRED FROM GOVT AGENCIES.
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7. WP'S MCCOMBS IN HUE WRITES OF ARVN COLONEL WITH THREE WIVES, OF THE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS INVOLVED, AND COL'S ADVICE THAT "TACT HELPS." MCCOMBS NOTES THAT TRADITIONAL MULTIPLE MARRIAGES WERE OUTLAWED A DECADE AGO EXCEPT FOR THOSE ALREADY EXISTING.

CHINA

8. IN OHIO STATE U ADDRESS (GLOBE AUG 31), PRES FORD SAID "PRACTICAL PROBLEM-SOLVERS CAN CONTRIBUTE MUCH TO EDUCATION, WHETHER OR NOT THEY HOLD DEGREES," SUGGESTS THAT UNIVERSITIES ADMIT WORKING PEOPLE, NOT ONLY AS STUDENTS BUT AS TEACHERS. POINTING TO "SIGNI-FICANT TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRESS" IN CHINA, FORD CALLED FOR SIMILAR PRACTICAL DETERMINATION IN US, ADDING, "WE CELEBRATE THE RISING CAPACITIES OF THE CHINESE NATION. AS AMERICANS MOTIVATED BY FREE COMPETITION, WE SEE A DISTANT CHALLENGE. AND I BELIEVE ALL AMERICANS WELCOME AND ACCEPT IT." RECALLING HIS CHINA VISIT TWO YEARS AGO, FORD OBSERVE THAT CHINESE PRODUCTIVITY IS "GAINING MOMENTUM, AND THE MAJORITY

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OF CHINESE ARE YOUNG PEOPLE, HIGHLY MOTIVATED AND DISCIPLINED." IN CONTRAST, PRES. SAYS, AMERICAN YOUTH GENERALLY ARE GETTING EITHER TOO MUCH OR TOO LITTLE TRAINING FOR THEIR CAREERS, INFLATION IS CREATING ANXIETY, AND INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTIVITY IS SLIPPING.

9. ALL PAPERS CARRY VERSIONS OF AP REPORT ON "PEOPLES DAILY" DENUNCIATION OF INDIAN MOVE TO BRING SIKKIM INTO INDIAN UNION AS "FLAGRANT ACT OF COLONIAL EXPANSION". INDIAN FM OFFICIALS REJECTED PRC COMMENT WITH LINE THAT RELATIONS WITH SIKKIM "DO NOT CONCERN ANYONE ELSE." PARLIAMENT EXPECTED TO APPROVE ACTION TODAY DESPITE LAST-MINUTE EFFORT BY CHOGYAL FOR DELAY, AND REPORTS THAT NEPALESE LEGISLATORS ALSO VIEW MOVE WITH "GRAVE CONCERN".

10. CODEL FULBRIGHT HAS 90 MINUTE DISCUSSION WITH CHIA KUAN-HUA, TO BE CONTINUED TODAY. US SPOKESMAN DESCRIBED TALKS AS USEFUL BUT DECLINED TO ELABORATE
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OR LIST TOPICS (NYT FROM GLOBE AND MAIL).

11. JOHN BURNS REPORTS ANOTHER TRIUMPH FOR MAO-THOUGHT, IN SUCCESSFUL EFFORT BY KANSU PEASANTS WHO INSPIRED BY READING "ON PRACTICE" TO MOUNT ANTI-HAILSTORM UNITS WITH HOME-MADE ROCKET LAUNCHERS AND CHEMICAL-FIRING GUNS AIMED AT MENACING CLOUDS. PEOPLES DAILY REPORT DRAMATIC INCREASE IN CROP YIELDS IN AREA.

12. REUTER REPORTS HK GOVERNMENT 10 YEAR PLAN TO TRANSFORM OUTLYING TSING YI ISLAND INTO INDUSTRIAL PARK SPECIALIZING IN HEAVY INDUSTRY, A SWITCH FROM LIGHT INDUSTRY EMPHASIS ELSEWHERE IN COLONY. TWO SITES BEING DEVELOPED BY US CONCERNS WITH CAPITAL OUTLAY OF US 36 MILLION DOLS: OUTBOARD MARINE CORP. TO BUILD MARINE ENGINE PLANT, DOW CHEMICAL TO PRODUCE POLYSTYRENE.

13. E-SYSTEMS, INC. OF DALLAS WILL ACQUIRE AIR ASIA OF TAINAN FROM AIR AMERICA, SUBJECT TO GROC APPROVAL (WSJ).

KOREA/JAPAN

14. NYT'S HALLORAN IN TOKYO REPORTS SK AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN, KIM YOUNG SUN, WARNING THAT ROK-JAPAN RELATIONS HAD REACHED "DANGEROUS" AND "DELICATE"

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STAGE. MEETING WITH NEWSMEN, KIM LEFT LITTLE DOUBT THATDIPLOMATIC RUPTURE IS HIGHLY POSSIBLE. REPORTS FROM SEOUL SAID KIM DONG JO HAD POSTPONED TRIP TO UN BECAUSE OF GRAVITY OF SITUATION. AT ISSUE IS WHAT ROKG ASSERTS IS JAPANESE COMPLICITY IN ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF PARK; GOJ HAS BEEN REPLYING WITH QUIET DENIALS.

IN THEIR CHARGES OF JAPANESE RESPONSIBILITY, SEOUL BRUSHED ASIDE FACT THAT ROK CONSULAR OFFICER GAVE ASSASSIN MUN SE KWANG A VISA THAT PERMITTED HIM TO ENTER KOREA, THAT MUN SMUGGLED PISTOL PAST KOREAN
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CUSTOMS OFFICERS, AND THAT HE SLIPPED PAST SECURITY GUARDS TO GET INTO NATIONAL THEATER WHERE HE SHOT AT PARK.

HALLORAN REPORTS THAT LAST FRIDAY PARK PERSONALLY TOLD AMBASSADOR USHIROKO THAT HE WAS DISSATISFIED WITH JAPAN'S ATTITUDE. MEETING FOLLOWED YESTERDAY

BY SK DIPLOMATIC NOTE DEMANDING JAPANESE COOPERATION IN INVESTIGATION OF ASSASSINATION PLOT, TURNOVER OF NK RESIDENT OF JAPAN AND TWO JAPANESE CITIZENS WHO ROKG ASSERTS WERE ACCOMPLICES; ALSO DEMANDING MEASURES TO CONTROL CHOSEN SOREU, TO SUPPRESS WHAT KOREANS CONSIDER TO BE "DISTORTED" REPORTING ON CONDITIONS IN KOREA BY JAPANESE PRESS, AND APOLOGY FOR HAVING ALLOWED JAPAN TO BE BASE FROM WHICH ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT WAS UNDERTAKEN.

JAPAN

15. JAPANESE SOURCES IN MOSCOW SAY SOVIETS ARE QUIETLY PUSHING JAPANESE BUSINESSMEN TO TAKE OVER AMERICAN SHARE IN 10 BILLION DOL DEAL TO BUY SIBERIAN NATURAL GAS. IMPATIENT WITH US HESITATION, USSR SAID TO OFFER TOKYO GAS EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS. BUT GOJ AND JAPANESE BUSINESSMEN SAID TO BE EXTREMELY RELUCTANT TO PROCEED WITH PROJECT WITHOUT POLITICAL GUARANTEES US PARTICIPATION WOULD PROVIDE (SUN).

16. JAPAN'S EXPORTS INCREASED SHARPLY IN AUGUST, UP 54 PERCENT OVER LAST YEAR. FIN MIN SAYS THERE ARE SIGNS THEY WILL REMAIN AT HIGH LEVEL IN MONTHS AHEAD (UPI NYT, JOC).

17. JOC'S CULLISON SAYS JAPANESE ECONOMIC PLANNING AGENCY STATISTICS SHOW JAPAN'S GNP GROWTH MAY SINK TO ZERO

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THIS YEAR.

18. MAJOR JAPANESE STEELMAKERS AND AUSTRALIAN IRON ORE SHIPPERS HAVE REACHED NEW PRICE AGREEMENT RAISING ORE PRICES AVERAGE 22 PERCENT. GOA FORCED RENEGOTIATION
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FROM 17 PERCENT HIKE AGREED ON IN JULY (DJ, S-N 9/3).

19. TANAKA HAS ORDERED INVESTIGATION INTO CAUSE OF RADIOACTIVE LEAK ABOARD MUTSU (WP).

20. AP TEHERAN REPORTS JAPAN WON 9 STRAIGHT SWIMMING VICTORIES IN ASIAN GAMES. JAPANESE TOTAL OF 14 GOLD MEDALS FAR MORE THAN THAT OF ANY OF OTHER 24 PARTICIPATING NATIONS, BUT IN MAJOR UPSET, CHINA BEAT JAPAN IN BOTH MEN'S AND WOMEN'S GYMNASTICS (WP).

PHILIPPINES

21. PHILIPPINE RC BISHOPS FORMALLY ASK MARCOS TO LIFT MARTIAL LAW AND RESTORE CIVIL LIBERTIES, GIVING MEANING TO NEW SOCIETY REFORM PROGRAM. DECISION TO SUBMIT PETITION MADE AFTER MILITARY RAID ON SACRED HEART NOVITIATE. BISHOPS CALLED FOR GREATER EFFORT TO SPREAD BENEFIT OF ECONOMIC GROWTH TO WORKERS, FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE IN POPULATION AND POLITICAL QUESTIONS, AND SPOKE OUT IN FAVOR OF THOSE IN DETENTION (NYT). ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL FIGURES, 5000 ARE DETAINED IN MILITARY CAMPS UNDER MARTIAL LAW; TEN PERCENT OF THEM ARE DESCRIBED AS POLITICAL PRISONERS.

AUSTRALIA

22. AUSTRALIA AND ROK HAVE SIGNED AGREEMENT FOR SUPPLY OF AT LEAST MILLION TONS OF AUSTRALIAN RAW SUGAR TO KOREA OVER NEXT FIVE YEARS (JOC).

23. COMMODITY NEWS SERVICE CITES USDA REVIEW STATING IF REASONABLE CROP CONDITIONS CONTINUE, AUSTRALIA'S '74-'75 WHEAT HARVEST COULD BE 11.5 MILLION METRIC TONS, ONLY HALF MILLION BELOW '73-'74 HAVRVEST (JOC).

24. REUTER ADELAIDE REPORTS SA STATE GOVT HAS ASKED FOR ARMY HELP TO PREVENT LOCUSTS FROM REACHING
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PLAGUE PROPORTIONS THERE. MILLIONS OF ACRES OF
CEREAL CROPS AND PASTURES THREATENED (CHITRIB).

INDONESIA/THAILAND

25. UNION OIL ANNOUNCED DISCOVERY OFF EAST KALIMANTAN.
SEPARATELY, STANDARD OF INDIANA CONFIRMED OIL STRIKE
IN GULF OF THAILAND ABOUT 180 MILES SOUTH OF BANGKOK
(WSJ).

GENERAL

26. WSJ'S HARTLEY REPORTS THAT DAYS OF BIG LOG SALES FROM
INDONESIA, MALAYSIA, AND PHILIPPINES TO MILLS OF
JAPAN, TAIWAN, AND ROK DRAWING RAPIDLY TO CLOSE AS
TREE EXPORTERS SEEK TO DEVELOP HOME PROCESSING INDUSTRY.

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

MALAYSIA

27. LAT'S ELEGANT (AUG 30) IN HK OBSERVES THAT WHILE
ELECTION IN MALAYSIA WAS HIGHLY GRATIFYING TO GOM,
IT WAS DISTURBING TO THOSE CONCERNED ABOUT FUTURE
OF DEMOCRACY IN THE REGION. PRE-ELECTION FEAR OF
COMMUNAL OUTBREAK HAUNTED ALL SEGMENTS OF MALAYSIA'S
MULTI-RACIAL POPULATION, BUT THOUGHTFUL MALAYSIANS
NOW APPREHENSIVE THAT THEIR COUNTRY MAY HAVE CREATED
A POLITICAL DESERT AND CALLED IT PEACE.

DOMINATED BY ETHNIC MALAYS, JUST OVER 50 PERCENT
OF POPULATION, GOM WAS JUBILANT OVER ELECTION RESULT.
ELECTED LEADERS WERE NOT NOTICEABLY DISTURBED BY
FEAR THAT RESULTS COULD PREVENT ANY FREE PLAY OF
PUBLIC OPINION IN THE FUTURE. NOR WERE THEY DISTURBED
BECAUSE CHINESE (ALMOST 40 PERCENT OF TOTAL POPULATION,
THOUGH NOT THE ELECTORATE) GOT NO MORE THAN A QUARTER
OF SEATS.

OVERWHELMING VICTORY OF NATIONAL FRONT WAS WON WITH
LITTLE OR NO OVERT INTIMIDATION; NO AGENTS OF THE

ADMIN THREATENED VOTERS OR BRIBED THEM. BUT THE
CRUSHING VICTORY MAY HAVE SWEPT AWAY ANY REALISTIC
HOPES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF REP GOVT IN MALAYSIA. 'THE

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DEMOCRATIC PROCESS HAS BEEN CHOKED OFF - NOT BY A
ROUGH HEMP ROPE, BUT BY A SILKEN CORD," SAYS ELEGANT.

DISSIDENTS, PARTICULARLY CHINESE DISSIDENTS DID NOT
DARE TO WIN BECAUSE THEY FEARED REPETITION OF RACE
RIOTS AND VIRTUAL MARITAL LAW EVOKED BY THEIR STRIKING
SUCCESSES IN 1969. IN ADDITION, FREE DISCUSSION
OF GUT ISSUES WAS IMPOSSIBLE BECAUSE IT WAS - AND
REMAINS - A CRIME TO DISCUSS THOSE ISSUES FREELY
IN MALAYSIA; ISSUES WHICH MAY NOT BE DISCUSSED REVOLVE
AROUND MALAY DOMINANCE, LEADING NOT WESTERNERS BUT
MALAYSIANS THEMSELVES PRIVATELY TO CHARGE THAT MALAYSIA
HAS CONDUCTED A NON-ELECTION.

INDOCHINA

28. S-N'S BRADSHER (SEPT 3) IN HK NOTES HANOI CELEBRATING
NATIONAL DAY WITH LOW-KEY REITERATION OF ITS PRIORITY
ON ECON DEVELOPMENT AMID INTENSIFIED FIGHITNG BY NVA
IN SVN. PHAM VAN DONG'S SPEECH AND NHAN DAN EDITORIAL
MADE CLEAR THAT DRV GOAL REMAINS ESTABLISHMENT OF CONTROL
OVER ALL VN. HOWEVER, BRADSHER PERCEIVES UPSURGE OF
FIGHTING RAISING NEW QUESTIONS ABOUT HANOI'S WILLINGNESS
TO PUT WAR AHEAD OF SOLVING ITS DOMESTIC ECON PROBLEMS.
CITES RECENT SAIGON REPORTS SUGGESTING THAT NVN HAD
ABANDONED DECISION MADE PUBLIC LAST FEB TO PUT ECON

REBUILDING OF NVN FIRST; INCREASES IN FORCES AND
ACTIVITIES WERE INTERPRETED AS MEANING SWITCH BACK
TO PRIMARY EMPHASIS ON WAR.

MOST OBSERVERS, ACCORDING BRADSHER, DO NOT SEE ANY
INCONSISTENCY BETWEEN PRIMARY PUBLIC EMPHASIS ON ECON.
DEVELOPMENT ON NORTH AND CONTINUING BUILDUP TOWARD
MORE INTENSIVE EFFORT TO DESTROY SAIGON REGIME.
QUESTION IS ONE OF TIMING, SINCE NVN MAKES ITS LONG-
TERM GOAL CLEAR; IT IS TIMING WHICH COULD BE CAUSING
CONTINUING DISCUSSION IN HANOI.
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29. SUN'S ISAACS, NOW HK BUREAU CHIEF, REVISITS SAIGON
AFTER MORE THAN A YEAR AWAY. DESCRIBES PRG DELEGATION,
"WHICH STILL SITS, LIKE A BIT OF ALIEN FLOTSAM
WASHED UP ON A HOSTILE BEACH," AT TAN SON NHUT, AS
ONE OF THE FEW REMAINING TRACES OF PARIS AGREEMENT.
DELEGATION'S COMPOUND REMAINS UNCHANGED IN MORE THAN
YEAR. PRESS CONFERENCE ALSO UNCHANGED - A LITANY
OF ALLEGED C-F VIOLATIONS BY GVN THAT WAS A PERFECT
MIRROR IMAGE OF DAILY PRESS BRIEFINGS GIVEN BY GVN

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SPOKESMEN DOWNTOWN. ISAACS ASSERTS THAT TPJMC'S
ONLY ACCOMPLISHMENT HAS BEEN TO CARRY OUT AN EXCHANGE
OF VIET POWS - AN EXCHANGE MARRED BY CLAIMS ON BOTH
SIDES THAT NOT ALL PRISONERS WERE RETURNED. TPJMC
HAS NOT EVEN BEGUN ANY OF THE OTHER TASKS ASSIGNED
UNDER C-F, WHICH INCLUDED MAPPING OF ZONES
OF MIL CONTROL; AND DEPLOYMENT OF JOINT GVN-PRG
MIL TEAMS TO SUPERVISE TRUCE AT REGIONAL AND LOCAL
SITES NEVER TOOK PLACE. COMMUNIST DELEGATIONS DID
GO BRIEFLY TO SOME REGIONAL POSTS, BUT AFTER SERIES
OF DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST THEM BY LOCAL CIVILIANS,
SOME OF WHICH HAD APPARENT SANCTION OF GVN AUTHORI-
TIES, PRG WITHDREW ALL ITS DELEGATES TO SAIGON. THERE
THE TPJMC LAPSED INTO FRUITLESS BICKERING, MOST
RECENTLY OVER PRG DEMAND FOR WRITTEN GUARANTEE OF
DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES FOR ITS DELEGATES.

GENERAL

30. IN CONTEXT OF GENERAL REVIEW OF THE EFFECTIVENESS
OF US DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION, NYT'S RESTON
EXPRESSES VIEW THAT SOME MISSIONS (ALLUDING TO THOSE
ON THE CONTINENT) ARE NOT AS INFLUENTIAL AS THEY MIGHT
BE AND HAVE NOT ADAPTED TO NEW LEADERS AND GOVTS. CITES
W GERMANY'S SCHMIDT THAT INDUSTRIAL NATIONS HAD TO WORK
OUT THEIR INFLATION PROBLEMS TOGETHER AND DO SO URGENTLY
ON BASIS DAY-TO-DAY CONSULTATIONS. RESTON OBSERVES THAT
IN RECENT YEARS, THE LEVEL OF CONSULTATION WITH AMBASSADORS

IN WASHINGTON, LONDON, PARIS, MOSCOW AND TOKYO HAS
DECLINED; SAYS ONLY DOBRYNIN HAS BEEN IN DAY-TO-DAY
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CONTACT WITH HAK, THUS DEMONSTRATING HOW IMPORTANT
EMBASSIES CAN BE WHEN THE RIGHT MEN ARE APPOINTED TO
CRITICAL POSTS. RESTON ASSERTS THAT STRONG CASE COULD
PROBABLY BE MADE FOR ADMIN. REAPPRAISAL AND CHANGE
OF US AMBASSADORS. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 04 SEP 1974
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Disposition Authority: n/a
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Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE194050
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: STAFF:PP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740245-1166
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740974/aaaaclbs.tel
Line Count: 535
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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Review History: RELEASED <22 JUL 2002 by maustmc>; APPROVED <28 JAN 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

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30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SEPTEMBER 4 EA PRESS SUMMARY INDOCHINA
TAGS: PFOR, XC, US, FR, VS, VN
To: SAIGON
Type: TE
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